

NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM * 53910 *

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(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

TO DIR	EXREG CONTR	KCC CONTROL NUMBER ddp-0902-95
THRU DDIR, EXDIR, DDP, N5		ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION
SUBJECT VENONA Translation Declassification Event		EXREG SUSPENSE KCC SUSPENSE ELEMENT SUSPENSE

DISTRIBUTION
DIR, DDIR, EXDIR, DDP, N5, N5P, LAO, GC, DDO, Z, A, E3, E32, E324

SUMMARY

ISSUE: (U) DCI concurrence is required for VENONA declassification Event.

BACKGROUND: ~~(TSC)~~ You will see the DCI on 5 June and will travel to Europe on 6 June. We expect the DCI to raise options for an event to announce the declassification of the first 49 VENONA messages, involving the Atomic Bomb spies and the Rosenbergs. This background will also be useful to you should Sir John Adye raise the subject during your trip.

DISCUSSION: ~~(TSC)~~ This package will update you on what has been sent to the DCI for review and decision, and [REDACTED]

- TAB A is a package couriered to DCI 26 May, with exemplary translations and a schedule for release of the full 2,200 translations.

- TAB B is a package couriered to DCI on 1 June with a draft of the proposed declassified short history of VENONA, and alternatives for a VENONA declassification event at NSA during week of 5 or 12 June. WE NEED A DECISION FROM DCI ON HIS PARTICIPATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- TAB C is a synopsis of our contact with the FBI on the release.

- TAB D [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION: (U) FIRST, that you attempt to have the DCI identify today which of the event options he prefers, and SECOND, that you inform the DCI that we plan to notify the Congressional oversight and appropriations committee leadership prior to the event.

COORDINATION/APPROVAL					
OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
D	6/5/95	320/1			

ORIGINATOR JAMES P. CAVANAUGH	ORG. N5P	PHONE (Secure) 963-3083	DATE PREPARED 5 June 1995
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FORM A6796 FEB 94
NSN: 7540-FM-001-5465

Classified by:
Declassified on:

Declassified and Approved for Release by NSA on 07-03-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526, FOIA Case #42771

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET UMBRA

CS/LC

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY

6/5/95

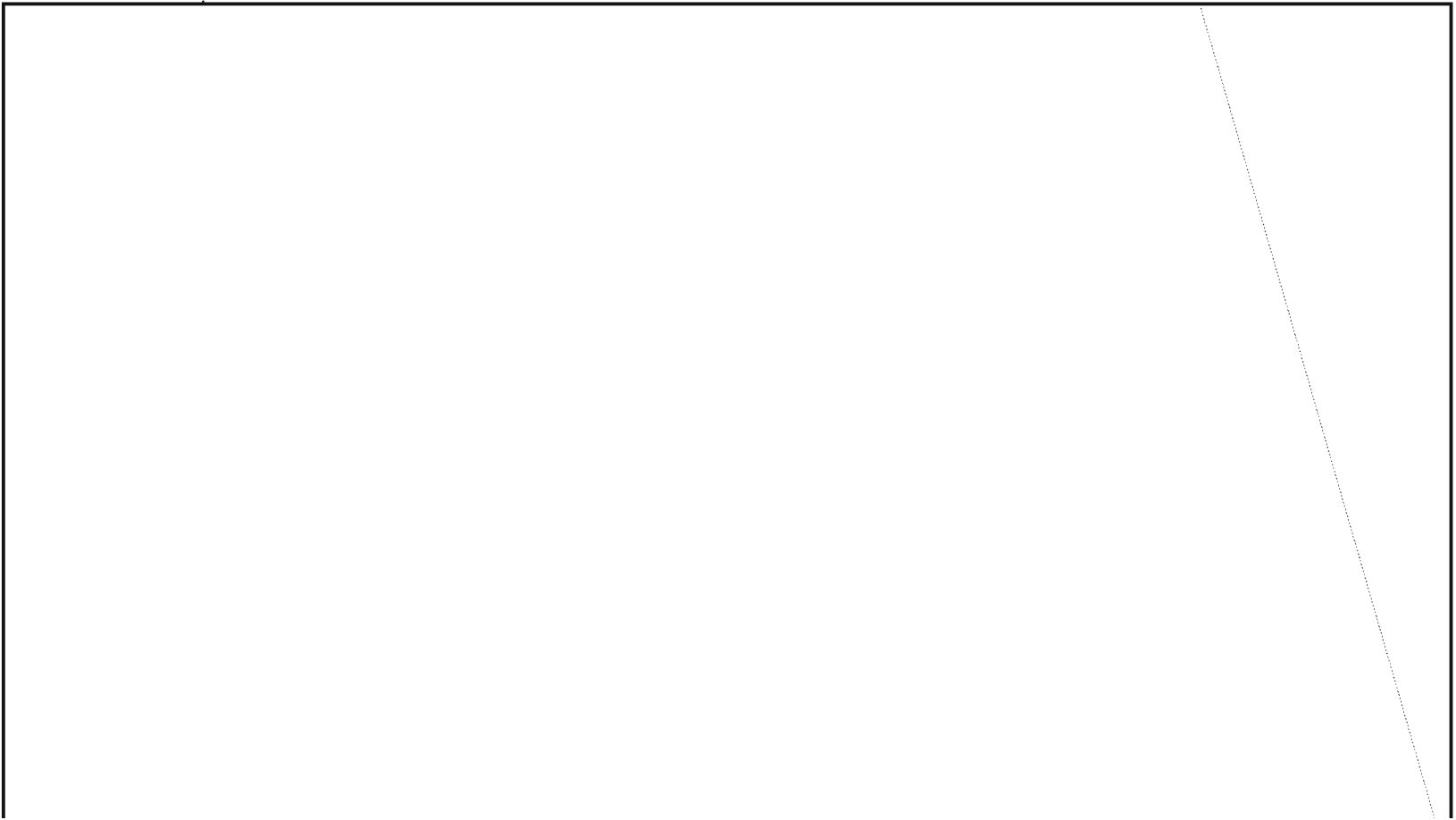
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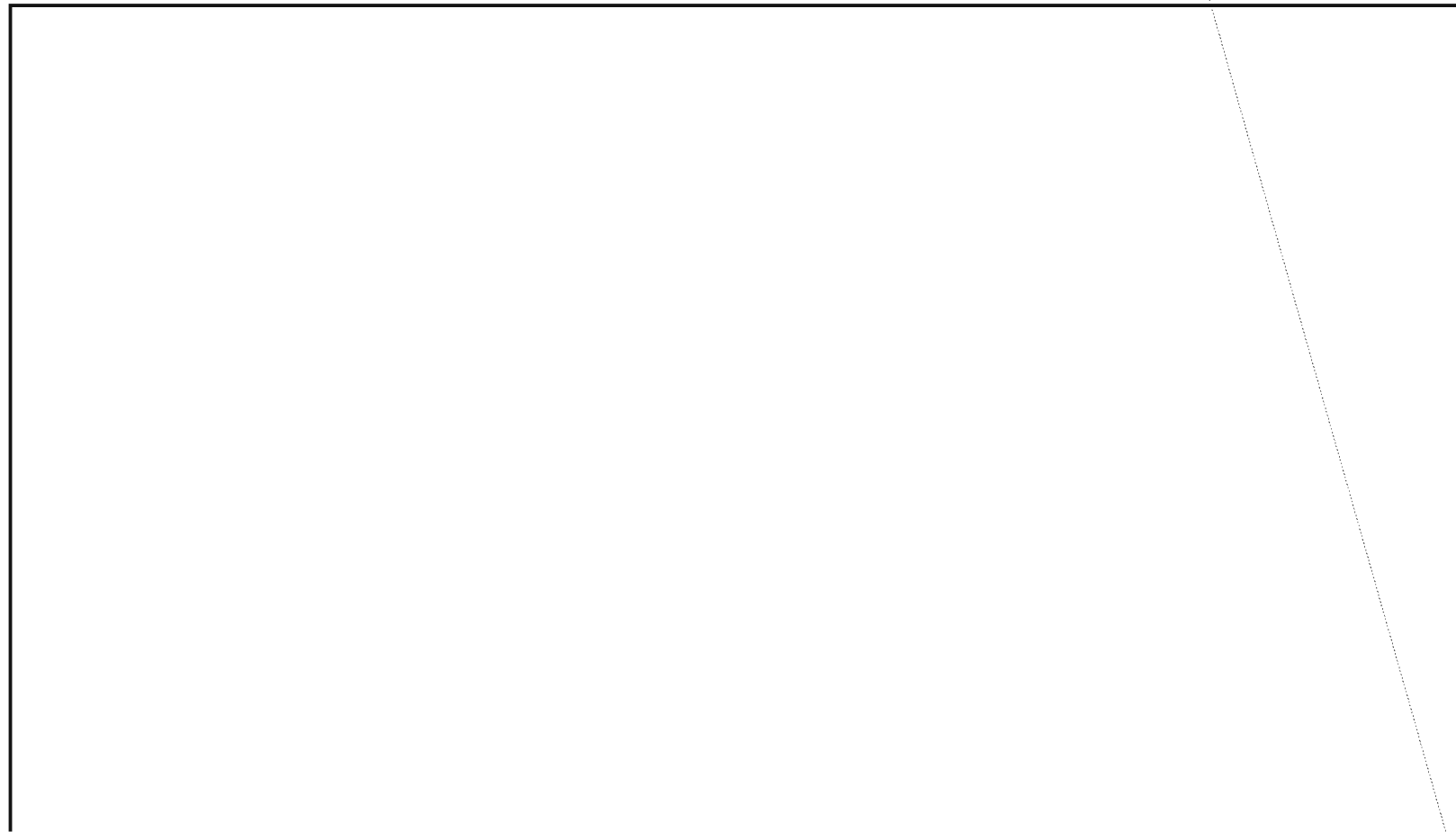
Sir:

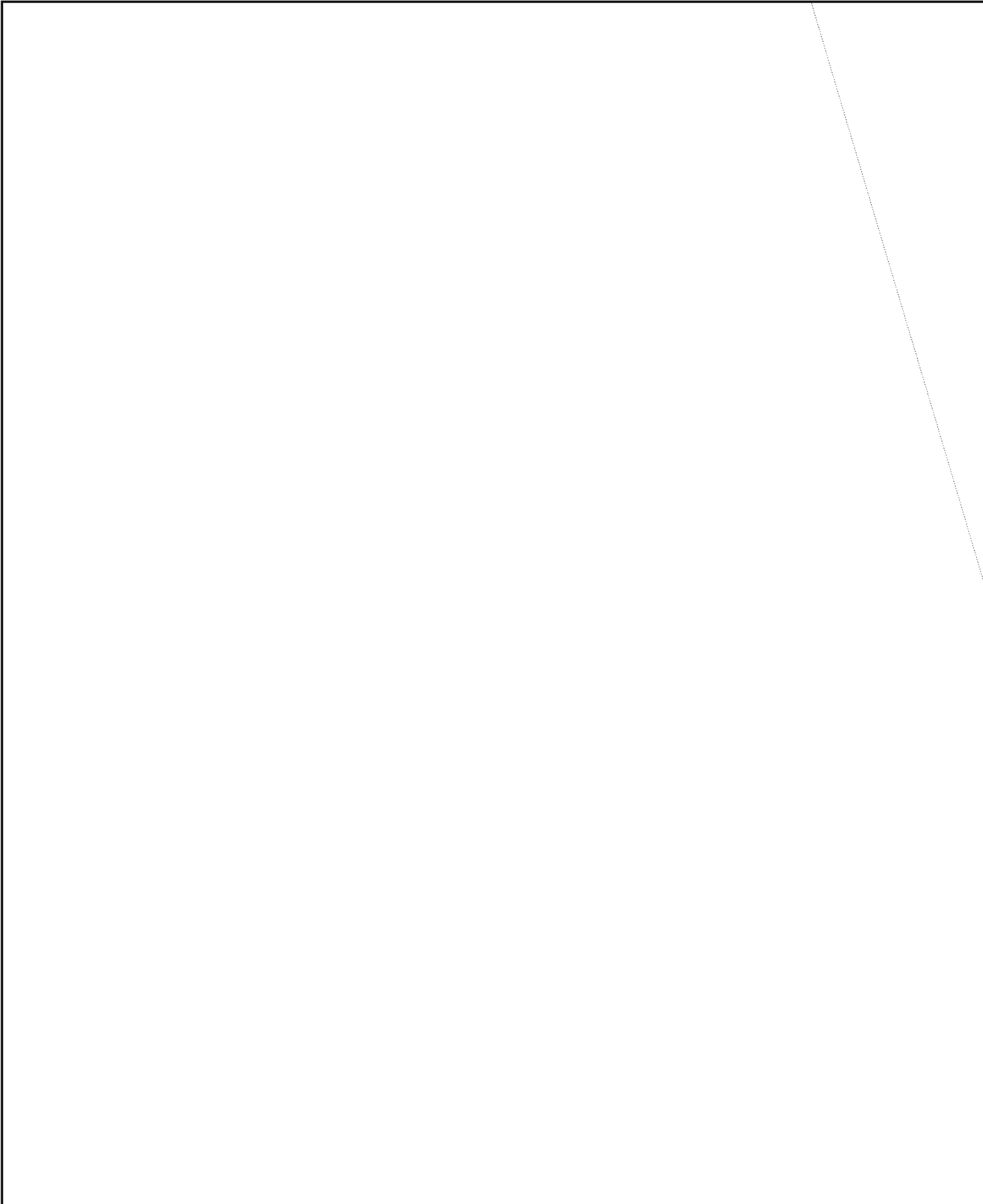
Please note this is an improved version of the Venona history found at TAB 3, completed over the weekend.

Dr. Deutch has not yet seen this version which, upon clearance by OGC and DDIC, will go to press. I have provided an extra copy for the DCI.

v/r.
Jim







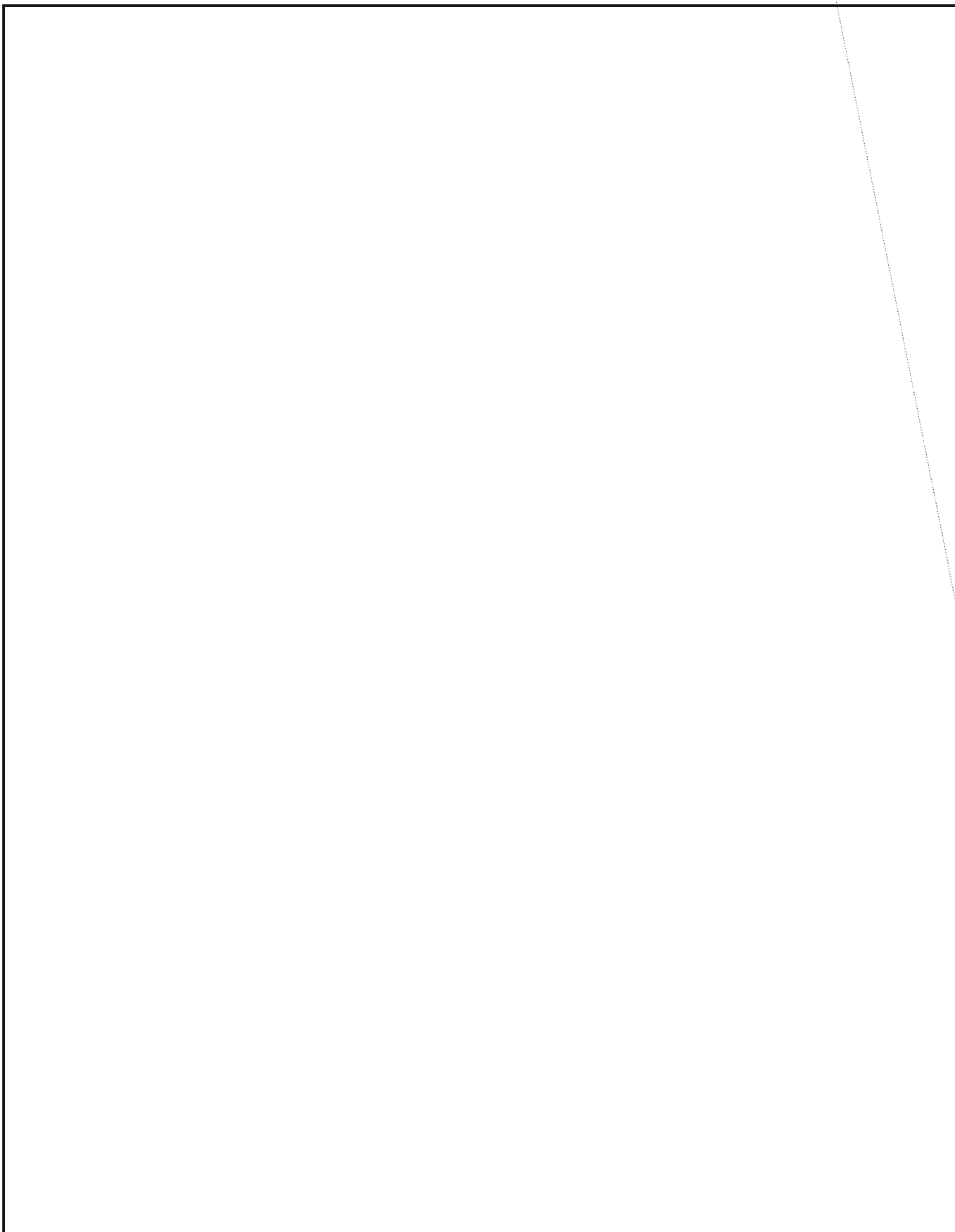
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FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

SUBJECT: Release of Venona Translations - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

While I am confident that most of the translations will be released in near complete form, we must do a very careful review, message-by-message and clear all personal names with the FBI.

Encls:
a/s

[illegible]

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Lou Benson, M5J, 963-1978s

SCHEDULE FOR RELEASE OF VENONA TRANSLATIONS

1. 8 June 1995. Press Release, Summary Unclassified History of Venona, and Translations of the Rosenberg/Atomic bomb spies messages ready for public release at a press conference, ceremony, other. About 50 message translations will be released.

Thereafter to be released to public:

2. Sep 1995: translations of KGB messages passed on the New York to/from Moscow lanes during 1942-1943. *(300 messages)*

3. December 1995: translations of KGB messages on the New York to/from Moscow lanes during 1944-45 and Washington to/from Moscow lanes during 1945-1946. *(500 messages)*

4. March 1996: translations of KGB messages on the San Francisco to/from Moscow lanes during 1943-1946 and Mexico City to/from Moscow lanes during 1943-1946. *(600 messages)*

5. July 1996: translations of GRU messages passed on the Washington to/from Moscow lanes during 1943, and small number of translations of miscellaneous other Western Hemisphere KGB, Soviet Foreign Ministry and Soviet Trade messages. *(400 messages)*

6. Date TBD. Release of translations of KGB and GRU traffic on European and Pacific lanes during the 1940s. Will defer to the British on how and when this will be done and who will process and release the translations, but we are pressing them to agree to a comparable schedule as above. *(approx 350 messages)*

Comments:

a. More than 2200 translations to be released during events 1. to 6., most of them released by NSA (events 1. to 5.) Exact number uncertain right now because of different accounting systems (a technicality). However, number would significantly increase if British decide to release GRU/COMINTERN/KGB European and Asian agent traffic of the 1930s-1945 period.

b. The NSA schedule depends on FBI ability to OK the releasability of names in the Venona translations. A very big issue.

c. Personal privacy vs. historical interest a many-sided issue.



Lou Benson, M5J, 963-1978s

DATES OF VENONA TRANSLATIONS

NSA is releasing translations of decrypted KGB and GRU messages of the 1940s, the final product of the VENONA program. In each instance the released translation is the last one prepared. Most messages were translated several times, often over a period of many years. This was done because continuing analysis by NSA led to the recovery of more parts of the encrypted messages.

However, the very earliest translations, from the later 1940s and early 1950s often contained almost all the information needed for counterintelligence purposes, allowing the FBI to take action.

For example, a released translation may show a date of 1960, but the message may have been broken in the late 1940s. KGB message covernames (e.g. ANTENNA and LIBERAL), and details of espionage work and the related agent networks were decrypted and translated in a number of KGB 1944/45 messages beginning in 1947.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO: DCI

SUBJ: Public Release of VENONA Papers

1. Attached for your decision is an outline of alternatives for public release of the VENONA papers. Also attached is a draft of the brief unclassified history of VENONA for release concurrent with the translations.

2. In addition, we are compiling a list of questions we anticipate the press may ask, along with proposed responses. We will forward these to you upon completion.

WILLIAM P. CROWELL

Encl:
a/s

cc: Director, NSA

SUBJECT: Public Release of VENONA Documents – DECISION NOTE

BACKGROUND: VENONA is the project name for the US/UK effort to exploit KGB messages between Moscow and Western Hemisphere Agents. At the request of the DCI, these documents are being released to the public for the first time. The initial installment of the VENONA documents, (those relating to the KGB's recruitment and handling of the Atomic Bomb spies), will be ready for release in early June. Jointly with this release, a VENONA display is being prepared at the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM).

DISCUSSION: To commemorate this historical event, NSA plans to host a formal ceremony at the NCM. NSA would like the DCI to be present as the keynote speaker at the NCM when the documents are publicly released and the new display is unveiled. There are several proposals that follow for your review and decision:

FOCUS:

- Law enforcement and intelligence team effort
- Move toward less secrecy
- Value of signals intelligence in Cold War – KGB target
- Historical value of intelligence

SUGGESTED CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS/INVITED GUESTS:*Participants*

DCI
DIRNSA or D/DIRNSA
Director, FBI
UK Ambassador (if closed ceremony)
Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY)
Dr. David Kahn, Scholar-in-Residence
Dr. David Hatch, NSA Historian

Guests

Sen. Arlen Specter, Chairman SSCI (R-PA)
Sen. Robert Kerrey, Ranking Minority (D-NE)
Cong. Larry Combest, Chairman HPSCI (R-TX)
Cong. Norm Dicks, Ranking Minority (D-WA)
Hon. Janet Reno, AG
Hon. Jamie Gorelick, DAG
Dr. Trudy H. Peterson, Acting Archivist, U.S.
Heroes of VENONA

*OPTIONS FOR ANNOUNCING RELEASE***OPTION 1: Controlled release with separate ceremonies at the NCM**

- Ceremony A – D/DIRNSA hosts evening event/reception at the NCM, with invited dignitaries, no media coverage. Ceremony as follows:
 - Welcome – DIRNSA or D/DIRNSA
 - Keynote – DCI
 - Importance of Intelligence to Law Enforcement – DIR FBI
 - Openness in Government – Sen. Moynihan
 - Historical Importance of VENONA – David Kahn
 - Turnover of Documents – D/DIR NSA passes to Sen Moynihan who passes to NSA Historian
- Ceremony B – Separate press event at NCM to take place the day following Ceremony A. This ceremony could be hosted by NSA historians, including Dr. Kahn, to publicly unveil the new VENONA display. Press

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kits would be distributed with information on VENONA and the new display and to possibly include previous night's statements from DCI, Chairman of Secrecy Commission, and Dr. Kahn's historical perspective. Chairmen of HPSCI and SSCI could also provide written press statements to be included.

OPTION 2: DCI hosted event at NCM

- Afternoon/early evening ceremony at the NCM, conducted as Option 1A.
- Press invited attending on "RSVP basis" because of limited seating; initial press releases with invitations embargoed until conclusion of ceremony.
- Private ceremony for invited guests (no press) in adjacent conference room, following the ceremony.
- Because of limited space, logistics will be challenging; however, we will sequence events so that press will not be able to mingle with invited guests.

OPTION 3: Option 1 or 2 ceremony at an alternate location. (e.g. CIA Headquarters)

SCHEDULING OF EVENT: NSA will be ready to release the information and host the ceremony as early as 8 June. In order to perfect the museum display, arrange all the necessary calendars, and ensure that this precedent-setting public event runs without incident, we recommend scheduling the event no earlier than 14 June.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 1 to be held as your schedule permits between 13 and 15 June.

RATIONALE: Makes press attendance/exposure manageable
 Positive media opportunity for IC and elected officials
 Allows some time to coordinate and perfect public presentation

ALTERNATIVE: Option 2 to be held as your schedule permits between 12 and 15 June.

RATIONALE: This option is similar to Option 1 but without the dual ceremony. Option 2 also brings press into the ceremony with the invited guests.

DCI DECISION:

_____ Option 1 _____ Option 2

_____ Option 3 at _____

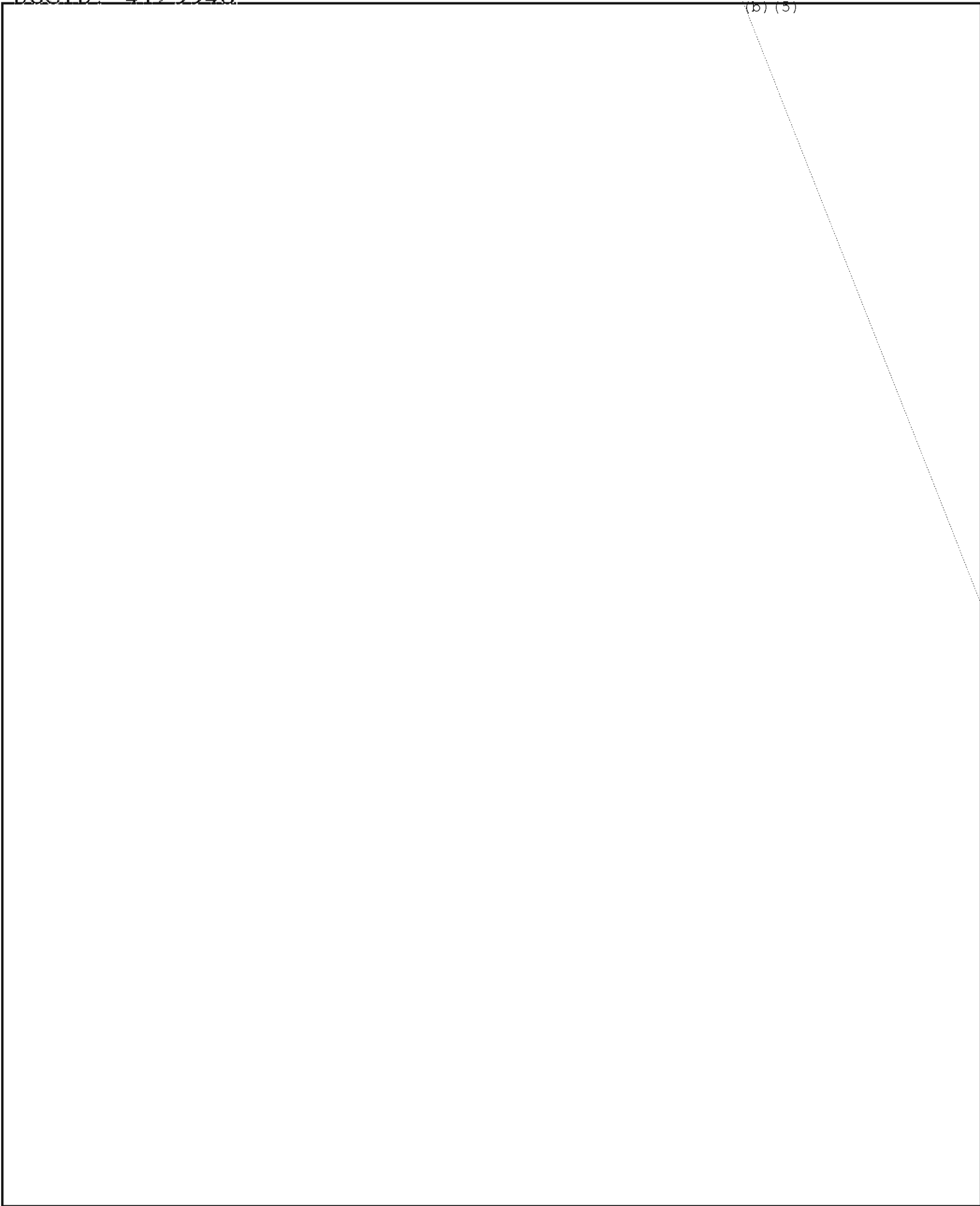
_____ Other _____

DCI DECISION:

_____ 8 June _____ 12 through 15 June

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ISSUE: Status of NSA Interaction with FBI on VENONA Release

BACKGROUND: We have been in close contact with the FBI since 25 May in attempting to get their clearance on the VENONA material for release. Actions taken and status are as follows:

25 May - DDIR spoke with Mr. Potts, FBI Deputy Director by phone, using the attached notes, and soliciting a point of contact from FBI who would: check names for current investigation equities and privacy concerns, and FBI collateral references for releasability.

26 May - DDIR received a call from Mr. Bill Baugh, FBI, confirming that he would be the point of contact, and that the person in charge would be Mr. Kevin O'Brien, FBI FOIA office.

26 May - N5P shipped a package containing the 49 messages of interest via courier to FBI.

29 May - N5P confirmed with FBI that the 49 messages were in the hands of Mr. Bill Baugh.

30 May - N5P spoke with FBI FOIA requestor who called to confirm areas of concern for which we have asked FBI opinion.

31 May - N5P spoke with FBI FOIA branch which confirmed that there would be no problem in meeting the target date of 7 June.

1 June - Another contact with FBI FOIA branch indicates that FBI review is still on track, and thus far has turned up no information requiring redaction from FBI's point of view.

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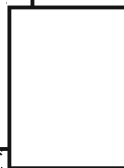
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